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Pesticides

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FALL WEBWORM

The Fall webworm (Hyphantria cunea) is a native insect of North America which feeds on more than 100 different species of shade and forest trees in southern Ontario. It attacks only broadleaved deciduous trees and shrubs, usually in open areas.

DIAGNOSIS AND DAMAGE

The presence of the Fall webworm is usually first noticed in August, when large greyish web appear over the ends of branches. As the infestation advances the tents can become quite large and encompass several branches. The caterpillars inside these tents are pale yellow to green, with a light brown stripe down the back and a yellow line along the sides. They are covered by long grey hairs.

The damage inflicted by this defoliator generally has little effect on healthy trees, because the damage occurs at the end of the growing season. However, the webs containing dried leaves, excreta and cast-off skins of the larvae can be unsightly.

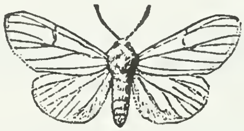
BIOLOGY

The Fall webworm has four stages in its life cycle: the egg, the larva (caterpillar), the pupa (cocoon) and the adult moth. Only the caterpillar stage feeds on foliage. There is one generation a year.

In May or June the white adult moths emerge from their cocoons. The females lay several hundred eggs in hair-covered masses on the undersides of leaves. When the larvae hatch 10 to 15 days later, they begin feeding in a group, while weaving their characteristics web for protection. When a full grown in the fall (about 23 mm/1 inch) they leave the web in search of a place to spin the individual cocoons in which they spend the winter. The following spring the adult moths emerge, beginning the cycle again.

Larva

Pupa


Moth

CONTROL OF THE FALL WEBWORM

Natural Control

High populations of the Fall webworm do not usually persist for more than 2 or 3 years. It is thought that natural control factors, including predators, parasites and disease organisms, are responsible for the collapse of these outbreaks.

Mechanical Control

Webs and their enclosed caterpillars may be pruned off and then burned as soon as they are discovered. Chemical control is seldom required.

Biological and Chemical Insecticides

If insecticides spraying is necessary, one of the products listed below can be applied while the caterpillars are still in the webs. Ensure that the spray penetrates the web thoroughly.

The following active ingredient are registered for the control of the **Fall webworm**. Check specific product labels for use instructions. No endorsement of named products is intended, nor criticism of similar products which are not mentioned.

Acephate*
Bacillus thuringiensis
permethrin
pyrethrins

* May be used by appropriately licenced land exterminators only.

PESTICIDES ARE POISONS - TREAT THEM AS SUCH

The Registered Label is the final authority on the use of the pesticide product.

READ THE LABEL prior to using the pesticide in order to determine whether the pest you intend to control is listed on the label.

READ AND FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS and precautionary statements on the label. All pesticides are potentially hazardous and should be used by a responsible individual in a safe and proper manner.

STORE pesticides in the original containers where they are inaccessible to children, pets, livestock and wildlife.